

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for protecting surfaces from arthropod infestation which comprises applying to said surface an effective amount of one or more particulate materials selected from the group consisting of calcined kaolins, hydrophobic calcined kaolins, hydrous kaolins, hydrophobic hydrous kaolins, hydrophobic calcium carbonates, calcium carbonates and mixtures thereof, said particulate materials being finely divided.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the particulate material has a particle size distribution wherein up to 90% of the particles have a particle size of under about 10 microns.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said hydrophobic calcined kaolins, hydrophobic hydrous kaolins, and hydrophobic calcium carbonates have a hydrophobic outer surface prepared from materials selected from the group consisting of organic titanates, organic zirconate or aluminate coupling agents, organofunctional silanes, modified silicone fluids and fatty acids and salts thereof.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the surface is a horticultural crop selected from agricultural and ornamental crops.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein the horticultural crop is selected from the group consisting of fruits, vegetables, trees, flowers, grasses, roots, seeds and landscape and ornamental plants.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the finely divided particulate materials have a median individual particle size below about 3 microns.

7. A method for protecting horticultural crops from arthropod infestation which comprises applying to the surface of a horticultural crop selected from the group consisting of fruits, vegetables, trees, flowers, grasses, roots, seeds and landscape and ornamental plants which comprises applying to the surface of said horticultural crop an effective amount of a slurry of one or more particulate materials selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, hydrophobic hydrous kaolin, calcined kaolin, and mixtures thereof, said particulate materials have a median individual particle size of about one micron or less, and wherein said particles as applied allow for the exchange of gases on the surface of said crop.

9. ⁸ The method of claim 1 or ⁸ wherein the finely divided particulate materials are applied one or more times during the growing season of said horticultural crop.

23

9. A method for protecting surfaces from arthropod infestation which comprises applying to the surfaces of agricultural products, man-made structures, and soils, an effective amount of one or more particulate materials selected from the group consisting of calcined kaolins, hydrophobic calcined kaolins, hydrous kaolins, hydrophobic hydrous kaolins, hydrophobic calcium carbonates, calcium carbonates and mixtures thereof, said particulate materials being finely divided.

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